



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

Dear Educator,

Thank you for your interest in the Official Wisconsin State Quarter Release Ceremony. The event promises to be an exciting and educational experience for all that attend. Please take a moment to fill out the attached registration form and send it to Rachel Allen, External Relations Coordinator, Office of Governor Doyle. Completed forms can be sent via e-mail to Rachel.Allen@gov.state.wi.us or fax to (608) 261-6804.

The event will feature:

- Governor Jim Doyle and First Lady Jessica Doyle
- U.S. Mint Director Henrietta Holsman Fore
- Wayne Larrivee, *the Voice of the Green Bay Packers*
- Miss Wisconsin, Alice in Dairyland and the Fairest of the Fair
- Bango Buck, Bernie Brewer and the Klement's Racing Sausages
- A fun and diverse array of music and dance
- A special farmer's market featuring Wisconsin products



I have attached a flyer for the event. If you have any questions please call Rachel at (608) 267-3839. We look forward to seeing you at this historic event!

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How much will the Official Wisconsin State Quarter Release Ceremony cost?

A: The ceremony is free and open to the public. There will be no admission fee or parking charge. The only potential cost would be if you choose to shop at the farmer's market or purchase food at the concession stands in the Exposition Center. All school-aged children will receive a free quarter. Also, anyone can purchase rolls of the new quarter in \$10 rolls (cash only, please).

Q: How do we get to Wisconsin State Fair Park?

A: State Fair Park is conveniently located off Interstate 94 in West Allis. Directions can be found on the State Fair Web site at <http://www.wiexpositioncenter.com/directions/>. Guests should enter through Gate 4 on 84th Street just north of Greenfield Avenue. Bus parking will be clearly marked.

Q: What time should we arrive?

A: Please arrive between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. This will allow time for parking, entry and seating. There will be information booths, entertainment and a pre-program children's singer on stage. The official program will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will last approximately one hour.

Q: What other educational opportunities are available in the Milwaukee area?

A: If you want to make a day of it, other field trip options include:

- Milwaukee Art Museum: <http://www.mam.org/>
- Milwaukee Public Museum: <http://www.mpm.edu/>
- Mitchell Park Domes: <http://www.countyparks.com/horticulture/domes/>
- Discovery World: <http://www.discoveryworld.org/>
- Betty Brinn Children's Museum: <http://www.bbcmkids.org/>

Q: How can I begin teaching my students about the Wisconsin Quarter before the event?

A: The Wisconsin quarter is the 30th in the U.S. Mint's 50 State Quarter Program honoring states in the order they joined the Union. The 50 State Quarter Program is an educational program focusing on the history and resources of the 50 states. Educational information and lesson plans for classroom use in grades K-6 can be found on the U.S. Mint website at http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/index.cfm?action=Educational_initiative. Additional materials are available from the U.S. Mint for classrooms that are planning on attending the ceremony in person.

During the ceremony, the audience will be asked to join in singing our official state song, *On Wisconsin!* Below you will find a brief history about the origins of the song as well as the lyrics. We encourage you to teach your students the lyrics so everyone can sing along.

From the *Wisconsin Blue Book*:

The music for "On, Wisconsin!" was composed in 1909 by William T. Purdy with the idea of entering it in a contest for the creation of a new University of Minnesota football song. ("Minnesota" would have replaced "On, Wisconsin" in the opening lines.) Carl Beck persuaded Purdy to dedicate the song to the University of Wisconsin football team instead, and Beck collaborated with the composer by writing the lyrics. The song was introduced at the Madison campus in November 1909. It was later acclaimed by world-famous composer and bandmaster John Philip Sousa as the best college song he had ever heard.

Lyrics more in keeping with the purposes of a state song were subsequently written in 1913 by Judge Charles D. Rosa and J. S. Hubbard, editor of the *Beloit Free Press*. Rosa and Hubbard were among the delegates from many states convened in 1913 to commemorate the centennial of the Battle of Lake Erie. Inspired by the occasion, they provided new, more solemn words to the already well-known football song.

Although "On, Wisconsin!" was widely recognized as Wisconsin's song, the state did not officially adopt it until 1959. State Representative Harold W. Clemens discovered that Wisconsin was one of only ten states without an official song. He introduced a bill to give the song the status he thought it deserved. On discovering that many different lyrics existed, an official text for the first verse was incorporated in Chapter 170, Laws of 1959, and it is contained in Section 1.10 of the statutes:

**On, Wisconsin! On, Wisconsin! Grand old badger state!
We, thy loyal sons and daughters, Hail thee, good and great.
On, Wisconsin! On, Wisconsin! Champion of the right,
'Forward', our motto — God will give thee might!**

More information from the *Wisconsin Blue Book* can be found online at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/bb/>